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BUILD OUT TERMITES

Sprays, fumigants, and poison powders that will destroy many a destructive pest are not so effective against termites. This wood-eating, ground-nesting insect, the so-called "white ant", can best be combatted by "building out" of houses. Entomologists in the U. S. Department of Agriculture have spent years in termite research. They find that none of the insecticides and fumigants that will destroy true ants are permanently effective against white ants because such poisons will only reach a few insects and the colony can constantly replenish its ranks from the ground. In order to live, termites must go back and forth from the wood they are eating to the ground where they can get moisture.

Building out termites is not necessarily an expensive process. The entomologists (or _____ agricultural engineer) suggest using cement mortar in all masonry foundations of the house and capping all foundations of masonry units with concrete, mortar, or slate, which these insects cannot penetrate. For permanent protection, place metal barriers over foundations. Avoid the use of wood in basements, cellars, and foundations as much as possible but if some wood is necessary, use wood that has been impregnated under pressure with a standard preservative to keep out termites.

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